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TITLE: Organization of Soviet FRONT Headquarters (U)

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SUMMARY: (C) This report provides information on the organization of Soviet FRONT Headquarters, including organization, manning, security, support, and communications. Communications capabilities of FRONT headquarters is detailed. Organizational charts are also provided.

DETAILS:

1. (C) Soviet FRONT Headquarters - General Information: While Soviet FRONTs varied in size, i.e. in number of subordinate armies and support elements, the basic organization of the FRONT headquarters was standard. Altogether 758 military personnel were assigned or attached to the FRONT headquarters. This number was composed of 20 generals, 12 colonels or generals, 540 officers, 22 sergeants and eight privates; in addition, 156 enlisted general support personnel were attached to the headquarters.

2. (C) Organization of FRONT Headquarters: Directed by and responsible to the Commander in Chief (CINC) of FRONT Forces (Komanduyushchiy voyskami fronta) were the following main components of the FRONT headquarters (see Figure 1 for main components of FRONT headquarters):

a. (C) First Deputy CINC (pervyy zamestitel' komanduyushchevo voyskami fronta).

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b. (C) FRONT Staff (Shtab fronta) was commanded by the FRONT Chief of Staff (Nachal'nik shtaba fronta). C/S was the principal organizer of the FRONT field operations and only he had the authority to issue orders in the name of the CINC. C/S was assisted by First Deputy C/S and by Staff Political Section. Front staff was composed of the following elements (see Figure 2 for organization of front staff):

(1) (U) Operations Directorate (Operativnoye upravleniye) consisted of the following elements:

- (a) (U) Operations Division (Operativnyy otdel)
- (b) (U) Information Division (Informatsiyonnyy otdel)
- (c) (U) Hydrometeorological Department (Gidrometeorologicheskoye otdeleniye)
- (d) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otdeleniye)

(2) (U) Intelligence Directorate (Razvedivatel'noye upravleniye) consisted of the following departments:

- (a) (C) 1st Department - Military Intelligence (Otd. voyskovoy razvedki)
- (b) (C) 2d Department - Clandestine Intelligence (Otd. agenturnoy razvedki)
- (c) (C) 3d Department - Special Intelligence (Otd. osoboy razvedki)
- (d) (U) 4th Department - Information (otd. informatsii)
- (e) (U) 5th Department - Signal Intelligence (Otd. radio i radiotekhnicheskoy razvedki)
- (f) (C) Special Communications Department (Otd. osoboy svyazi)
- (g) (C) Special Department (Osoboye otdeleniye)

(3) (U) Communications Directorate (Upravleniye svyazi) was composed of the following departments:

- (a) (U) 1st Department - Radio Communications (Otd. radio svyazi)
- (b) (U) 2nd Department - Radio Relay Communications (Otd. radio releynoy svyazi).

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(c) (C) 3d Department - Cryptology ZAS (Otd. zasekretchena avtomaticheskaya sistema).

(d) (C) 4th Department - Communications for Forward and Alternate Command Post (otd. PKP i ZKP svyazi).

(e) (U) 5th Department - Mail Communications (Otd. pochtovoy svyazi).

(f) (U) 6th Department - Final Products (?) (Otd. ukomplektovaniya).

(g) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otdeleniye).

(4) (U) Administration and Resources Directorate (Upravleniye organizatsii i. ukomplektovaniya) organized and managed enlisted military personnel of the FRONT.

(5) (U) Services of the FRONT staff (Sluzhby shtaba fronta) provided special support to all directorates of the FRONT staff and was composed of the following departments:

(a) (U) Topographical Service (Topograficheskaya sluzhba).

(b) (C) 8th Department of Special Communications (8-e otd. osoboy svyazi).

(c) (C) Radio Electronic Jamming Department (Otd. radio elektronnykh protivodeystviy).

(d) (U) Inspectorate of Measuring Instruments (Inspektsiya izmeritel'nykh priborov).

(e) (U) Military Censorship Department (Otd. voyennoy tsensury).

(f) (U) Printing Office (Tipografiya).

(g) (U) Department of Physical Security and Traffic Control (Otd. okhrany i regulirovaniya).

(h) (U) Department of Morale and Discipline (Otd. moral'nogo sostoyaniya i distsipliny).

c. (U) Chiefs of Troop Branches (Nachal'niki rodov voysk) were the following (see Figure 3 for organization of FRONT Troop Branches):

✓ (1) (U) Chief of Rocket and Artillery Troops (Nachal'nik raketnykh voysk i artillerii) was assisted by the Staff of Rocket and Artillery Troops to control and command the following departments:

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- (a) (U) Operations Department (Operativnoye otd.)
- (b) (U) Intelligence Department (Razvedivatel'noye otd.)
- (c) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otd.)

(2) (U) Chief of Air Defense Troops (Nachal'nik voysk protivovozdushnoy oborony) controlled and commanded the following departments:

- (a) (U) 1st Department - Operations (Operativnoye otd.)
- (b) (C) 2nd Department - Radar Intelligence (Otd. radiolokatsionnoy razvedki)
- (c) (C) 3d Department - Communications and Automatic Guidance Systems (Otd. svyazi i avtomaticheskoye sistemy upravleniya)
- (d) (U) 4th Department - Utilization of Equipment (Otd. ekspluatatsii tekhniki)
- (e) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otd.)

d. (U) Chiefs of Special Troops (Nachal'niki spetsialnykh voysk) were the following (see Figure 4 for organization of FRONT Special Troops).

(1) (U) Chief of Engineer Troops (Nachal'nik inzhenernykh voysk) commanded and controlled the following departments:

- (a) (U) Operational Reconnaissance Department (Operativno-razvedivatel'noye otd.)
- (b) (U) Engineer-Technical Department (Inzhenerno-tekhnicheskoye otd.)
- (c) (C) Reconnaissance and Estimates of Radiological Fallout Department (Otd. razvedki i prognoza radiatsionnoy obstanovki)
- (d) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otd.)

e. (U) FRONT Rear Services (Tyl fronta) was commanded by Deputy CINC/Chief of FRONT Rear Services (Zamestitel' po tylu i nachal'nik tyla fronta). The Rear Services Staff was composed of the following elements (See Figure 5 for organization of FRONT Rear Services).

(1) (U) Food Service Directorate (Upravleniye ukomplektovaniya Prodovol'stviyem).

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(2) (U) POL Directorate (Upravleniye ukomplektovaniya goryucho-smazochnymi materialami).

(3) (U) Uniform/clothing Directorate (Upravleniye ukomplektovaniyem obmundirovaniyem).

(4) (U) Medical Service Directorate (Upravleniye meditsinskoy sluzhby).

(5) (U) Veterinary Service Directorate (Upravleniye veterinarnoy sluzhby).

(6) (U) Combat Supplies Directorate (Upravleniye voyennogo soobshcheniya).

(7) (U) Troop Billeting Department (kvartirno-ekspluatatsionnoye otd.)

(8) (U) Special Department (Osoboye otd.).

f. (U) Chief of FRONT Services (Nachal'niki sluzhby fronta) were as follows. (See Figure 6 for organization of FRONT Services):

(1) (U) Chief of Armor Equipment (Nachal'nik bronetankovoy tekhniki).

✓ (2) (U) Chief of Rocket and Artillery Armament (Nachal'nik raketno-artilleryyskikh vooruzheniy) was subordinate to FRONT CINC and to Chief of Rocket and Artillery Troops.

(3) (U) Chief of Cadre (Nachal'nik kadrov) - for officers and career NCOs only.

(4) (U) Chief of Motor Transport Equipment (Nachal'nik avtotransportnoy tekhniki).

(5) (U) Chief of Finance (Nachal'nik finantsovogo upravleniya).

g. (U) FRONT Political Directorate (Politicheskoye upravleniye fronta) was headed by Deputy CINC/Chief of FRONT Political Affairs (Zamestitel' po politicheskikh delakh i nachal'nik politicheskogo upravleniya fronta), who was responsible for the political readiness of the FRONT forces. (See Figure 7 for organization of FRONT Political Affairs.)

✓ h. (C) FRONT Higher Military Council (Vysshiiy voyennyy sovet fronta) was formed to advise FRONT CINC on major decisions. FRONT CINC was the chairman of the council and the members (in descending order of importance) were the following officers:

(1) (U) Deputy CINC/Chief of Political Affairs.

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- (2) (U) 1st Deputy CINC.
- (3) (U) Chief of Staff.
- (4) (U) Deputy CINC/Chief of Rear Services.
- (5) (U) Chief of Rocket and Artillery Troops.
- (6) (U) Two or three additional officers, as designated by FRONT CINC.

3. (U) Guard and Direct Support Elements of the FRONT Headquarters: The following units provided guard, service, engineer, construction and air transportation support to the FRONT headquarters (See Figure 8 for the organization of the FRONT headquarters guard and direct support elements):

a. (U) A guard and service regiment (Polk okhrany i obsluzhivaniya) guarded and protected the FRONT headquarters and provided electrical, chemical defense and engineer support to the wartime FRONT Command Post.

b. (U) An engineer battalion constructed FRONT command posts sites and improved the immediate areas.

c. (U) A mixed aircraft courier regiment (Smeshennyy aviatsonny polk svyazi) provided air transport and courier service for the staff officers of FRONT headquarters.

4. (U) Purpose and Capabilities of the FRONT Communications: The communications for the FRONT command and control elements were provided by the following units:

a. (U) Signal units serving various communication centers:

(1) (C) The command post signal regiment was composed of two battalions which operated from two communication centers and provided communications to the FRONT CP.

(2) (C) The forward command post (FCP) signal battalion operated from one communications center and provided communications to the FRONT FCP.

(3) (C) The rear services control post (RSCP) signal regiment consisted of two battalions which operated two communications centers and provided communications to the FRONT RSCP.

(4) (C) The auxiliary communications centers signal battalion operated from six auxiliary communications centers.

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(5) (C) The communications cable-laying battalion was capable of laying up to 500 km of communications cable lines.

(6) (C) The radio traffic surveillance and control center monitored and controlled military radio traffic in the FRONT area of operations.

b. (C) Line communications units established and operated radio-relay and telephone main lines of communications:

(1) (C) Two radio-relay battalions were responsible for directional radio-relay communications up to 1000 km.

(2) (C) Two long-range radio battalions were responsible for directional radio communications up to 450 km.

(3) (C) The communications cable-laying battalion was responsible for laying permanent communications lines for distances from 100 to 320 km.

(4) (C) Communications cable-laying battalions laid communications cables from the FRONT CP to the subordinate armies, up to 400 km. There was one battalion for each army in the FRONT.

(5) (C) Communications cable-laying battalions laid communications cables from the FRONT CP to the subordinate rocket/missile brigades, up to 120 km. There was one battalion for each brigade.

(6) (C) The underground cable-laying company.

(7) (C) The signal company for communications with civilian centers took care of communications between FRONT and civilian centers in the FRONT area of operations.

(8) (C) The rear services long-range signal battalion provided long-range communications support to the FRONT rear elements.

c. (C) FRONT message and document centers and stations. Served as distribution points for classified documents and messages. Transportation to and from them was provided by the FRONT mixed aircraft courier regiment:

(1) (U) FRONT forward message center.

(2) (U) FRONT rear services message center.

(3) (C) Message stations at FRONT CP, FCP and RSCP.

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(4) (C) Message stations at FRONT bases and rear installations. Only staff officers from the FRONT headquarters were used as couriers of classified documents and messages.

d. (C) FRONT signal storage and repair facilities. FRONT communications elements were supported by four communications equipment and spare parts depots and by two mobile signal repair and maintenance bases.

ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: (C) This is the eleventh report in the series taken from Source.

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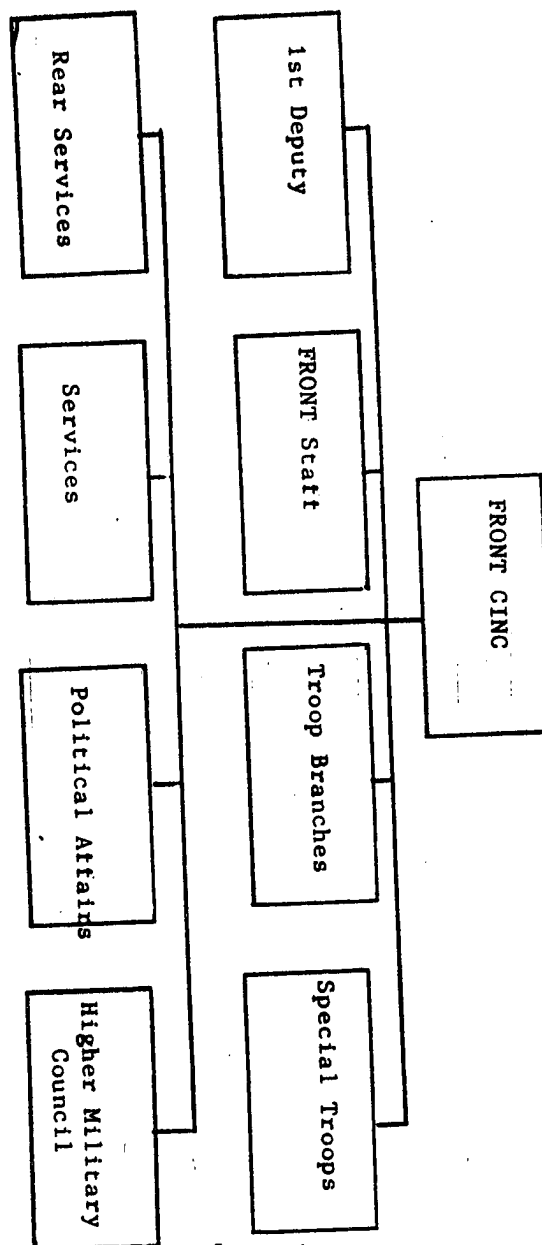


FIGURE 1: (C) Main Components of FRONT Headquarters.

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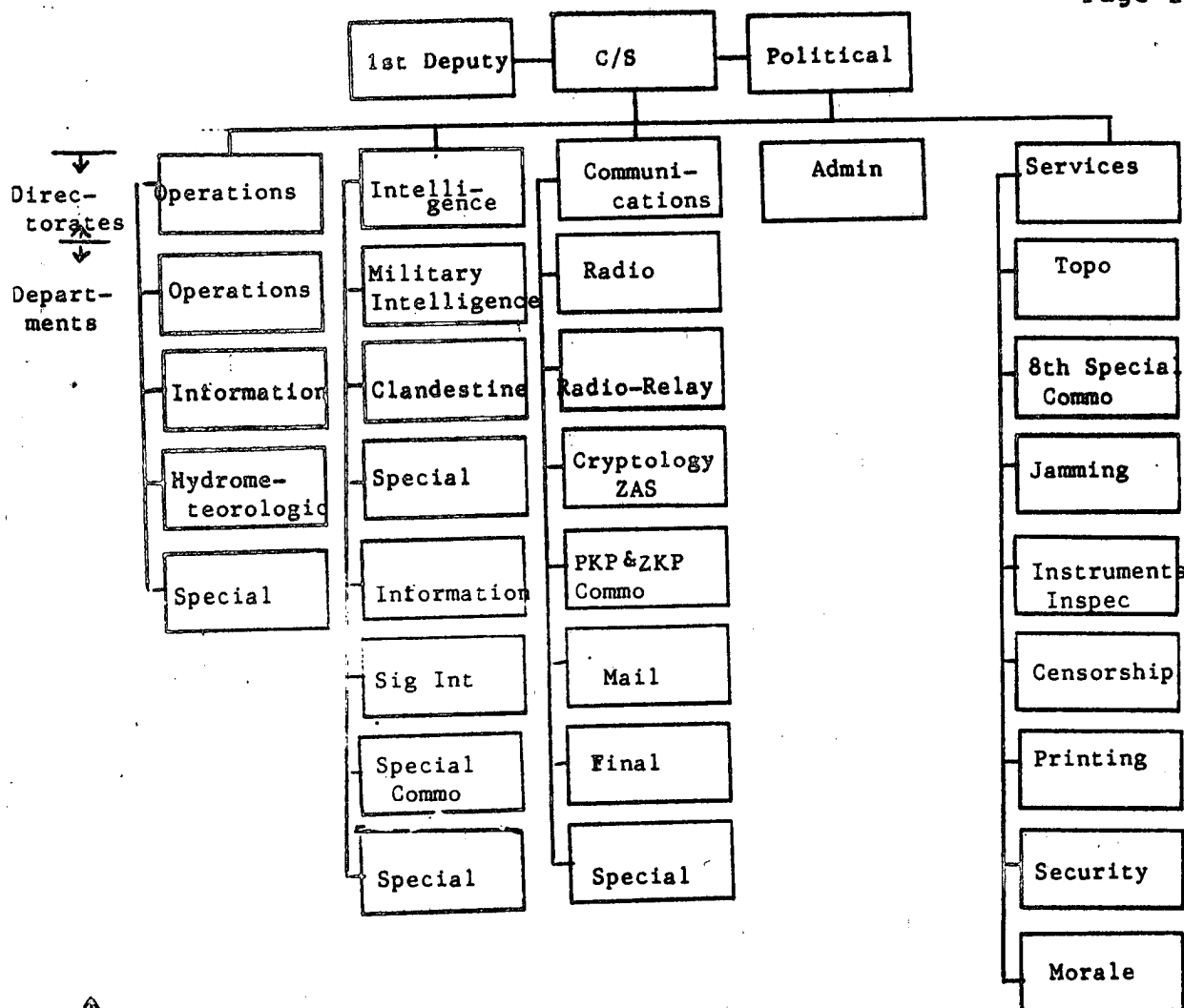


FIGURE 2: (C) Organization of FRONT Staff.

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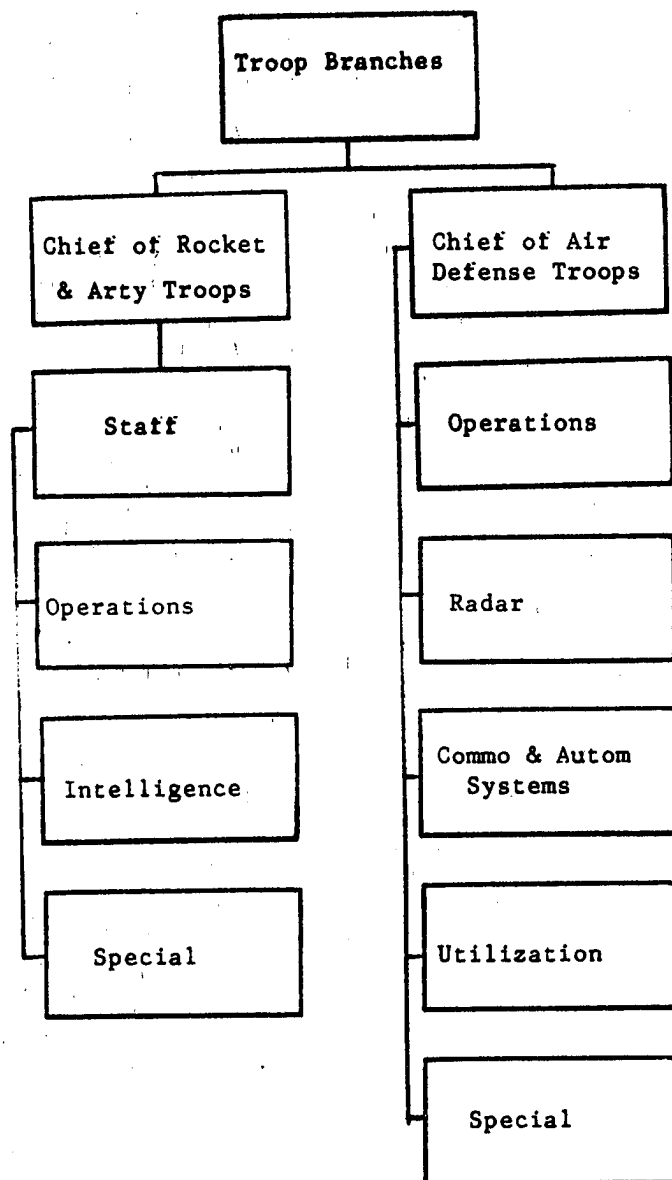


FIGURE 3: (C) Organization of FRONT Troop Branches.

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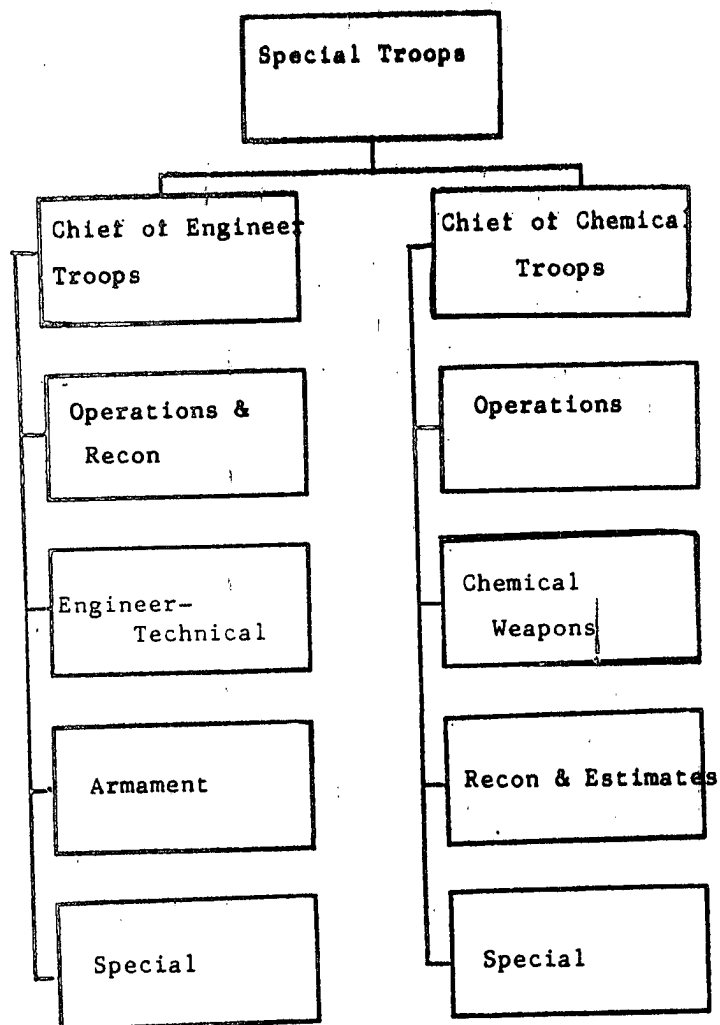


FIGURE 4: (C) Organization of FRONT Special Troops.

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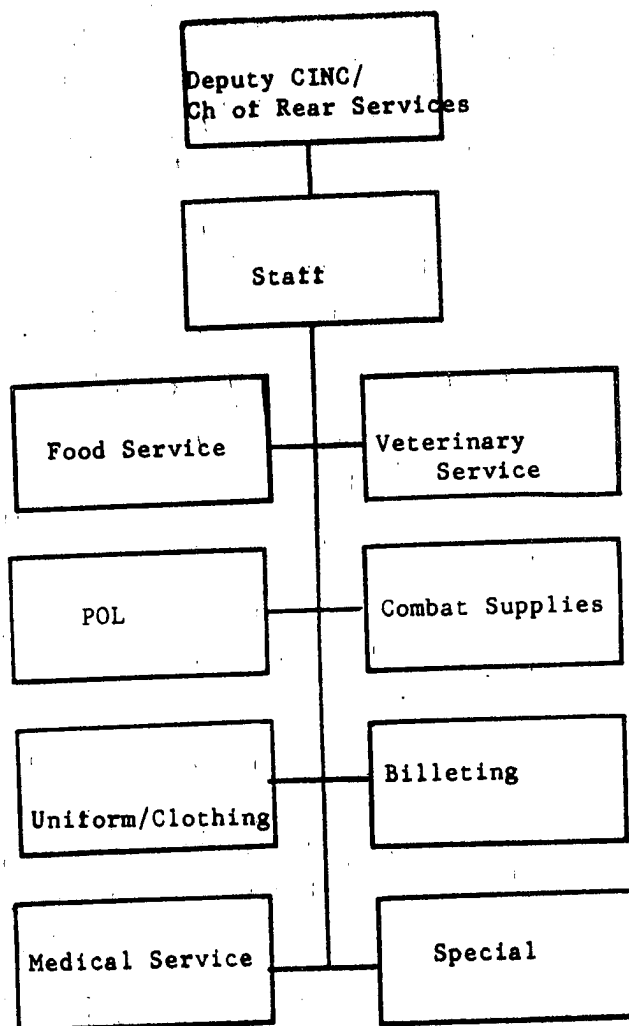


FIGURE 5: (C) Organization of FRONT Rear Services.

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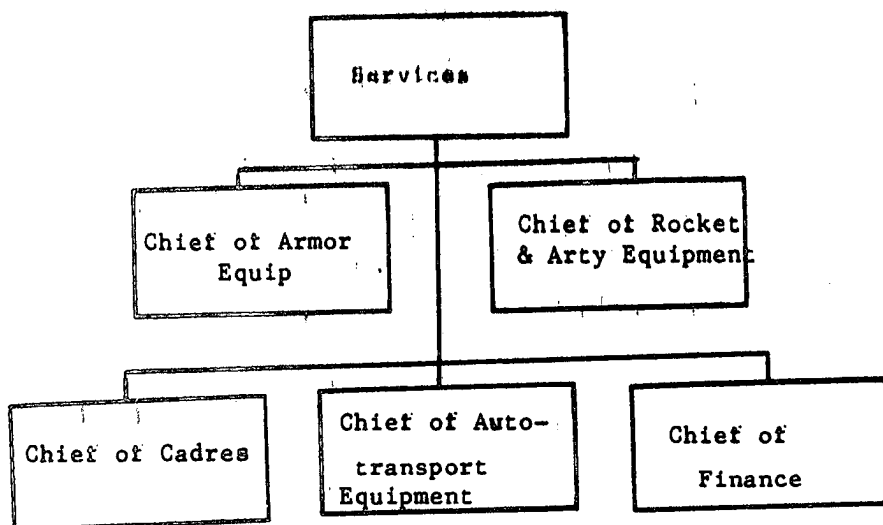


FIGURE 6:(U) Organization of FRONT Services

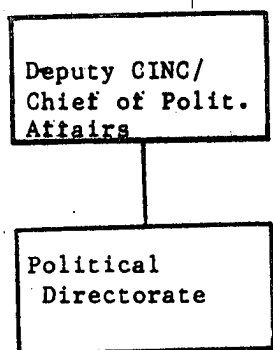


FIGURE 7: (U) Organization of FRONT Political Affairs

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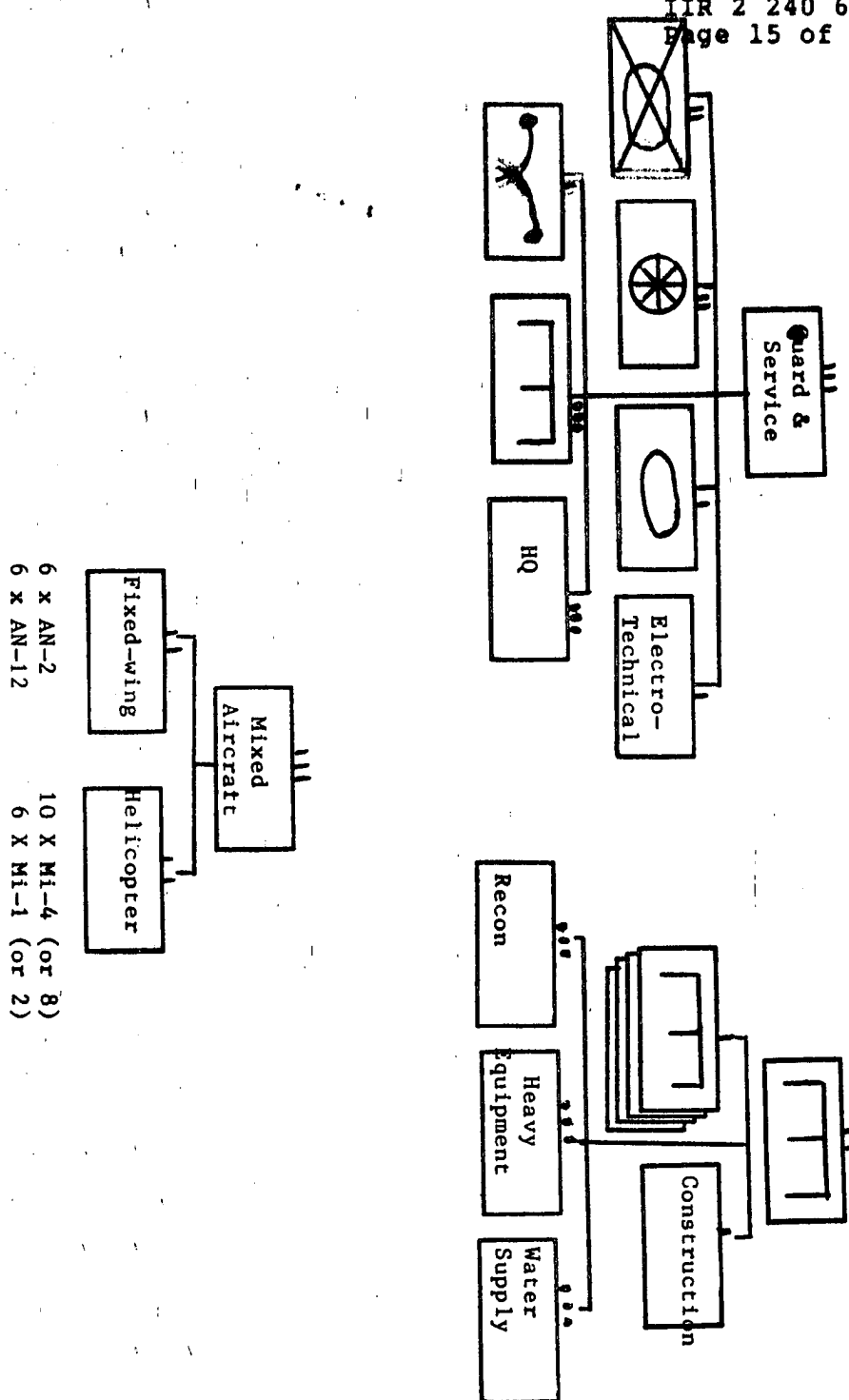


FIGURE 8: (C) Organization of FRONT Guard and Direct Support Elements Headquarters.

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